

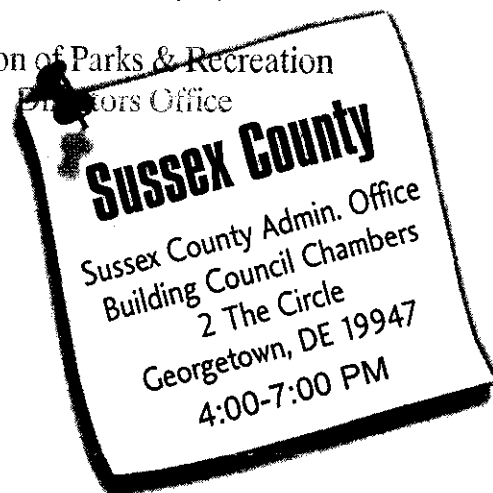
DNREC Parks & Recreation *Public Workshop*

Wednesday, April 26, 2006
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Received

MAY 05 2006

Division of Parks & Recreation
Directors Office



Comments

1. Do you think the maps adequately protect Delaware's natural resources/open spaces?

See Attached

2. Were all appropriate criteria considered in producing the maps?

3. Do you agree with the Proposed State Resource Areas maps? If yes, why? If no, why not?

Comments continued...

4. Do you agree with the Proposed Natural Areas maps? If yes, why? If no, why not?

5. Additional Comments?

Your comments and opinions are very important. DNREC will carefully review all information provided on this form. Under state law, this form is public domain, and if requested, a copy of it must be provided to the media or public. Thank you for your participation and contributions to this important project.

Optional: Please print your information:

Name: H. Grier Stayton

Community/Organization(if applicable): _____

Address: 16041 Staytonville Rd

City, State, Zip: Lincoln, DE 19960

Email Address: grier.stayton@state.de.us

DNREC/Parks & Recreation, 89 Kings Highway, Dover, DE 19901
Phone 302-739-9200

Received

MAY 05 2006

Division of Parks & Recreation
Directors Office

1. Do you think the maps adequately protect Delaware natural resources/ open spaces?

No. One of the SRA values listed in your handout is buffering or connecting existing "open space investment areas." There are some obvious geographic patterns in the SRA maps, however, they do not form an overall connected pattern of SRAs necessary to form greenways (corridors) or greenbelts. I posed the question about this at the Georgetown workshop and the basic response was, "inter-connection is difficult because there are too many roads in Delaware." While existing roads should be considered in the mapping, they should not be considered a limiting factor in connecting SRA's.

The DNREC web page includes a map dated March 2004, entitled Green Infrastructure, which is much more comprehensive in mapping of SRAs. After reviewing the proposed maps at the Sussex County workshop on April 26, 2006, it is my opinion that **DNREC must take a much more aggressive SRA mapping strategy by including larger areas and interconnecting them.** The other SRA values (wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, scenic beauty, conservation of water resources) are "de-valued" without a more aggressive approach of conserving existing open spaces.

2. Were all appropriate criteria considered in producing the maps?

Yes, good criteria. If you have not done so already, you may wish to merge farms with PDR's onto the SRA map, to give a better picture of what is off-limits to development.

3. Do you agree with the proposed State Resource Areas maps?

I believe the maps should be more inclusive and interconnected.

4. Do you agree with the proposed Natural Areas maps?

I believe the maps should be more inclusive and interconnected.

5. Additional comments:

The state must take a much stronger approach to the creation and protection of natural areas and state resource areas. The Counties have done a terrible job of planning and regulating development. An excerpt from the State Planning website:

"Delaware lost agricultural land and forests in the five years between 1992 and 1997, continuing a trend seen by Mackenzie between 1984 and 1992.



Received

MAY 05 2006

Division of Parks & Recreation
Director's Office

The state gained in "developed" uses (residential, urban, commercial, industrial, transportation, government and utility) over the same period. Developed uses grew by almost 14 percent over the period, while the amount of agricultural and forested land was down by nearly four percent."

It is hard to imagine the percentages of open space, farmland, forests, wetlands, etc. lost to development from 1997 to 2006.

The State of Delaware should include all tax ditches with a 1000' buffer (each side) for SRA status. These areas can be easily designated on maps and they will provide a good means of interconnecting the tracts of land already designated as SRA's.

In addition, the State of Delaware should provide "greenbelts around all existing towns and cities (where feasible). Future generations will appreciate the scenic views and it will force towns to improve their available housing and infrastructure from within.

The State of Delaware should not build any new roads through areas designated as SRA's.

The maps should extend the existing SRA from the State Forest "Barr Tract" north of Rte. 16, through to Rte. 36, encompassing numerous preserved Aglands and adjacent tracts of woodlands (e.g. the old Tunnel tract of 600+ acres).

A. M. Hyster
4/28/06